

Application No. 09/527,760
Amendment dated June 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2005

Docket No. 1232-4618

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 8, 13, 20, 25, 32 and 37-42 are independent. Claims 2, 3, 14, 15, 26 and 27 have been withdrawn from consideration.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control apparatus ~~having control means~~ for controlling an image sensing range of a camera by a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising:

a storage device adapted to store a program for operating a predetermined action associated with the image sensing range of the camera;

an acquisition device adapted to acquire information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

a control device adapted to automatically activate the program stored in said storage device when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired by said acquisition device matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the predetermined action,

wherein the predetermined action is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the current image sensing range of the camera.

2 (WITHDRAWN): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises detection means for detecting whether a user has a control right to the camera, and

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said control means activates the program stored in said storage means when said detection means detects that the user has the control right to the camera.

3 (WITHDRAWN): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises detection means for detecting whether the user has a control right to the camera, said storage means stores programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and said control means activates an action upon determining whether the action is an action to be activated while the user has the control right to the camera or an action to be activated even if the user does not have the control right to the camera.

4 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage device stores programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and said control device performs control upon determining termination/continuation of operation of a program under activation in accordance with a type of action under activation when said acquisition device detects a change in the image sensing range of the camera in the presence of the program under activation.

5 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage device stores a program for operating an action for display control of character information corresponding to a predetermined image sensing range of the camera.

6 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage device stores a program for operating an action for setting or operating a printer.

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7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage device stores a program for operating an action for transmitting electronic mail.

8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control apparatus having display means for displaying an image sensed by a camera on a display device of a remote user connected via a communication ~~newtwork~~ network, comprising:

a storage device adapted to store a program for displaying a separate window from the window for the sensed image in said display means, wherein the program is associated with an image sensing range of the camera;

an acquisition device adapted to acquire information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

a control device adapted to automatically activate the program stored in said storage device when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired by said acquisition device matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the program, thereby executing display control of the separate window,

wherein the separate window is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the current image sensing range of the camera.

9 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said storage device stores programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and said control device performs control upon determining termination/continuation of display of a window in accordance with a type of action under activation when said acquisition device detects a change

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in the image sensing range of the camera in the presence of a program for which display control is being performed.

10 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said storage device stores a program for operating an action for display control of a window for displaying character information corresponding to a predetermined image sensing range of the camera.

11 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said storage device stores a program for operating an action for display control of a window for setting or operating a printer.

12 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said storage device stores a program for operating an action for display control of a window for transmitting electronic mail.

13 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control method having a control step of controlling an image sensing range of a camera by a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising:

storing a program for operating a predetermined action associated with the image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the predetermined action,

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wherein the predetermined action is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the current image sensing range of the camera.

14 (WITHDRAWN): The method according to claim 13, wherein the method further comprises the detection step of detecting whether a user has a control right to the camera, and the control step comprises activating the program stored in the storage step when it is detected in the detection step that the user has the control right to the camera.

15 (WITHDRAWN): The method according to claim 13, wherein the method further comprises the detection step of detecting whether the user has a control right to the camera, the storage step comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the control step comprises activating an action upon determining whether the action is an action to be activated while the user has the control right to the camera or an action to be activated even if the user does not have the control right to the camera.

16 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 13, wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of operation of a program under activation in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of the program under activation.

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17 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 13, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of character information corresponding to a predetermined image sensing range of the camera.

18 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 13, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for setting or operating a printer.

19 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 13, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for transmitting electronic mail.

20 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control method having a display step of displaying an image sensed by a camera on a display device of a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising:

storing a program for displaying a separate window from the window for the sensed image in the display step, wherein the program is associated with an image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the program, thereby executing display control of the separate window,

wherein the separate window is configured to enable the user to interactively communicate with actively control an object within the current image sensing range of the camera.

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21 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 20, wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of display of a window in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of a program for which display control is being performed.

22 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 20, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of a window for displaying character information corresponding to a predetermined image sensing range of the camera.

23 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 20, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of a window for setting or operating a printer.

24 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 20, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of a window for transmitting electronic mail.

25 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A computer-readable medium used for an information control method having a control step of controlling an image sensing range of a camera by a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising program codes of:

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storing a program for operating a predetermined action associated with the image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the predetermined action,

wherein the predetermined action is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the current image sensing range of the camera.

26 (WITHDRAWN): The medium according to claim 25, wherein the program further comprises a program code of the detection step of detecting whether a user has a control right to the camera, and the control step comprises activating the program stored in the storage step when it is detected in the detection step that the user has the control right to the camera.

27 (WITHDRAWN): The medium according to claim 25, wherein the program further comprises a program code of the detection step of detecting whether the user has a control right to the camera, the storage step comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the control step comprises activating an action upon determining whether the action is an action to be activated while the user has the control right to the camera or an action to be activated even if the user does not have the control right to the camera.

28 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 25, wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the

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controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of operation of a program under activation in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of the program under activation.

29 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 25, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of character information corresponding to a predetermined image sensing range of the camera.

30 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 25, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action 25 for setting or operating a printer.

31 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 25, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for transmitting electronic mail.

32 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A computer-readable medium used for an information control method having a display step of displaying an image sensed by a camera on a display device of a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising program codes of:
storing a program for displaying a separate window from the window for the sensed image in the display step, wherein the program is associated with an image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and
automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of

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the camera associated with the program, thereby executing display control of the separate window,

wherein the separate window is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively~~
~~communicate with~~ actively control an object within the current image sensing range of the camera.

33 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 32, wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of display of a window in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of a program for which display control is being performed.

34 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 32, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of a window for displaying character information corresponding to a predetermined image sensing range of the camera.

35 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 32, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of a window for setting or operating a printer.

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36 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The medium according to claim 32, wherein the storing further comprises storing a program for operating an action for display control of a window for transmitting electronic mail.

37 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control apparatus having control means for controlling an image sensing range of a camera by a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising:

- a storage device adapted to store a program for operating a predetermined action;
- an acquisition device adapted to acquire information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

- a control device adapted to activate the program stored in said storage device in accordance with the information acquired by said acquisition device,

wherein said storage device stores programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and said control device performs control upon determining termination/continuation of operation of a program under activation in accordance with a type of action under activation when said acquisition device detects a change in the image sensing range of the camera in the presence of the program under activation, and

wherein the program under activation is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the image sensing range of the camera.

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38 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control apparatus having display means for displaying an image sensed by a camera on a display device of a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising:

a storage device adapted to store a program for displaying a window from the window for the sensed image in said display means, wherein the program is associated with an image sensing range of the camera;

an acquisition device adapted to acquire information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

a control device adapted to automatically activate the program stored in said storage device when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired by said acquisition device matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the program, thereby executing display control of the separate window,

wherein said storage device stores programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and said control device performs control upon determining termination/continuation of display of a window in accordance with a type of action under activation when said acquisition device detects a change in the image sensing range of the camera in the presence of a program for which display control is being performed, and

wherein the program for which display control is being performed is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the image sensing range of the camera.

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39 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control method having a control step of controlling an image sensing range of a camera by a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising:

storing a program for operating a predetermined action associated with the image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the predetermined action,

wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of operation of a program under activation in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of the program under activation,

wherein the program under activation is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the image sensing range of the camera.

40 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An information control method having a display step of displaying an image sensed by a camera on a display device of a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising:

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storing a program for displaying a separate window from the window for the sensed image in the display step, wherein the program is associated with an image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the program, thereby executing display control of the separate window,

wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of display of a window in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of a program for which display control is being performed, and

wherein the program for which display control is being performed is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the image sensing range of the camera.

41 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A computer-readable medium used for an information control method having a control step of controlling an image sensing range of a camera by remote user connected via a communication network, comprising program codes of:

storing a program for operating a predetermined action associated with the image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

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automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the predetermined action,

wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of operation of a program under activation in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of the program under activation,

wherein the program under activation is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the image sensing range of the camera.

42 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A computer-readable medium used for an information control method having a display step of displaying an image sensed by a camera on a display device of a remote user connected via a communication network, comprising program codes of:

storing a program for displaying a separate window from the window for the sensed image in the display step, wherein the program is associated with an image sensing range of the camera;

acquiring information about a current image sensing range of the camera; and

automatically activating the program stored in the storing when the current image sensing range of the camera acquired in the acquiring matches with the image sensing range of the camera associated with the program, thereby executing display control of the separate window,

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wherein the storing further comprises storing programs for operating a plurality of different actions, and the controlling further comprises performing control upon determining termination/continuation of display of a window in accordance with a type of action under activation when a change in the image sensing range of the camera is detected in the acquiring in the presence of a program for which display control is being performed,

wherein the program for which display control is being performed is configured to enable the user to ~~interactively communicate with~~ actively control an object within the image sensing range of the camera.